6/5/87 A3278-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 23 totaled an estimated 17.9 billion ton-miles, 5.1 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 21 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 356.4 billion ton-miles, up 1.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 23 totaled 406,624, up 3.7 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.8 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.7 percent in the East and 6.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 6,861 cars (34.4 percent), while nonmetallic minerals increased by 1,416 cars (15.3 percent). Fourteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 16 totaled 96,196 trailers and/or containers, 1.7 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 20 weeks of the year was 1,914,364 trailers and/or containers, up 2.7 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/23/87:

	Loadings in Week ended May 23, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,809	I	6,861	34.4	I	53	0.2
Other farm products	4,342	I	305	7.6	I	345	8.6
Metallic ores	19,385	D	1,942	9.1	I	4,197	27.6
Coal	111,146	D	177	0.2	D	431	0.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,757	I	518	3.4	D	178	1.1
Nonmetallic minerals	10,688	I	1,416	15.3	D	793	6.9
Grain mill products	11,285	I	656	6.2	I	248	2.2
Food and kindred products	10,992	D	195	1.7	I	98	1.0
Primary forest products	11,060	I	454	4.3	I	156	1.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,647	I	222	2.6	I	188	2.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,606	D	343	2.6	I	442	3.6
Chemicals and allied products	25,723	I	400	1.6	I	129	0.5
Petroleum products	4,888	D	14	0.3	D	102	2.0
Stone, clay and glass products	11,139	I	381	3.5	D	212	1.9
Coke	5,032	I	676	15.5	I	32	0.6
Metals and products	9,130	I	209	2.3	I	23	0.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,360	D	1,617	7.4	D	330	1.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,592	D	84	1.0	D	46	0.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,831	D	162	5.4	I	40	1.4
All other carloads	76,110	I	6,813	9.8	I	3,207	4.4
LCL traffic	102	I	12	13.3	I	20	24.4
Total Cars Loaded	406,624	I	14,389	3.7	I	7,086	1.8
Corresponding week of 1986	392,235						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (21 weeks)	8,004,298	7,913,496	I 1.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
20 Weeks ended May 16	338.5	334.8	I 1.1
Week ended May 23	17.9	17.0	I 5.1
21 Weeks cumulative	356.4	351.8	I 1.3

#

AARt - 052987